## REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance are requested for claims 1-9 in view of the following remarks.

Status of the Application

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, and 7-9, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,999,869 to Gitlin *et al.* (the "Gitlin patent"). Claims 3-6 have been objected to. Claims 3 and 5 have been rewritten into independent form. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

According to the Examiner, the Gitlin patent discloses the subject matter of each of claims 1, 2, and 7-9. Applicants respectfully assert that these rejections are rendered moot by the amendments to claims 1 and 9.

Objections to Claims 3-6

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter for claims 3-6. In response, claims 3 and 5 have been rewritten into independent form. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

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If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056208.53362US).

Respectfully submitted,

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